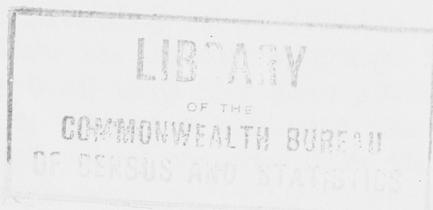


Publications
Production
Finance

15th May, 1949

B. S. E. 1949/3.



NEW SOUTH WALES

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS

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PART 1: EMPLOYMENT - NON-RURAL INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT - New South Wales

Employment in New South Wales (other than rural and female domestics) reached a new peak of 986,500 (717,400 men and 269,100 women) at the end of March, 1949. After increasing by 90,000 between July 1939 and 1945 and by nearly 6,000 a month during the main demobilisation period 1945-47 employment rose by only an average of 3,000 a month since then. With practically all available labour absorbed in jobs, and natural increase (excess of school-leavers etc. over losses by death and retirement) providing only small increments, immigration is now the main source of new labour. During the year 1948 about 65,700 new settlers arrived in Australia and this rate is now increasing substantially. Displaced persons in particular are being used to relieve the labour shortage in essential industries. By the end of April, 1948 about 4350 of them had been placed in this State, the men mostly in building, construction or forestry work and the women as domestics in hospitals and homes. Commonwealth Employment reports show that so far the inflow of migrants has not eased the tight labour position appreciably. At the end of March unfilled vacancies registered in this State totalled 39,800 (35,500 in March, 1948) and against that there were only 7,000 disengaged applicants for jobs, most of whom were difficult to place because of age or disabilities. Insignificant pockets of unemployment in a few country areas were mainly due to seasonal factors, but in the larger industrial centres and country towns there was a general shortage of labour for most types of skilled and unskilled work. Only 123 men and 21 women were receiving unemployment benefits at the end of March, 1949.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES (excl. employers & workers on own acc't.)

Month	WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT					Men from N.S.W. in Armed Forces
	Rural Males (a)	Domestics Females (b)	All other Wage Earners	Males	Females	
t h o u s a n d s						
1939-July	41	52	530	168	698	6
1945-July	23	19	541	247	788	224
1946-July	27	20	625	243	868	44
1947-July	26	n.a.	677	253	930	21
1948-March		n.a.	696	260	956	17
July	31	n.a.	702	263	965	14
1949-January		n.a.	712	267	979	13
February		n.a.	716	268	984	13
March		n.a.	717	269	986	13

(a) Ascertained annually in March; permanent employees only. (b) Employed in private households.

Main increases in employment during the past twelve months were recorded in factories (9,200-in particular in the manufacture of building materials, chemicals, and metals and machinery) in building and construction (4,300), transport (5,000), wholesale and retail trade, banks and health services. The slight fall in the mining group was due to the dispute at the Captain's Flat mine. Comparing 1939 and 1949 the main growth in employment occurred in factories (67%), transport (52%) and services (40%). Although employment in building and construction has risen substantially during the past year it is still only 10% above pre-war.

The employment increase of 2,200 in the month of March, 1949 occurred solely in private employment. Government employment, which includes Government transport construction, postal, health and other services, remained at 226,500. This was 22.9% of the total, compared with 22.7% and 22.3% in 1948 and 1939.

EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES-NEW SOUTH WALES (in thousands)

Month	Factor- ies	Building & Construct- ion.	Mining & Quarry- ing.	Transport & Commun- ication.	Retail Trade	Commer- ce and Finance	Profess' l & Person' l Services	Total Other Wage & Salary Earners	
1939-July	218.1	58.4	24.8	81.6	80.0	67.5	105.7	61.8	697.9
1945-July	302.3	34.9	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	85.5	787.9
1947-July	342.5	58.0	26.9	115.5	87.5	79.0	140.0	80.2	929.6
1948-March	353.8	60.0	28.0	119.3	91.5	82.7	143.9	76.7	955.9
July	356.4	62.2	28.3	121.2	92.2	82.5	143.7	77.4	963.9
1949-Jan.	359.1	63.5	27.2	122.7	94.9	86.1	146.5	78.7	978.7
Feb.	362.1	63.8	27.9	123.8	93.8	86.8	147.3	78.8	984.3
March	363.0	64.3	27.8	124.3	93.6	86.8	147.9	78.8	986.5
<u>Increase</u>									
Mar. 48-Mar. 49	9.2	4.3	-0.2	5.0	2.1	4.1	4.0	2.1	30.6
per cent	3%	7%	-	4%	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%
July 39-Mar. 49	144.9	5.9	3.0	42.7	13.6	19.3	42.2	17.0	288.6
per cent	67%	10%	12%	52%	17%	28%	40%	27%	41%

The war - and post-war upward trend in employment was experienced in all Australian States, the increases between July, 1939 and February, 1949 amounting to about 36% in Western Australia and Victoria, 39% in Queensland, 41% in New South Wales, 45% in South Australia and 52% in Tasmania, with an average of 40% for the Commonwealth. New South Wales increased its share in total employment from 40.3% to 40.6%, South Australia from 8.1% to 8.4% and Tasmania from 2.8% to 3.1% with corresponding small decreases in other States. Growth of Government staffs and development of Canberra is reflected in an employment rise from 4,800 to 9,100 for the Capital Territory, and employment in the Northern Territory more than doubled from 2,300 to 4,700.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA (Excl. rural & private domestic workers)
(Thousand Persons)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	Sth.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	Total (a)
1939 July	697.9	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	1730.2
1945 June	783.9	552.4	244.1	158.4	111.5	56.1	1915.7
1949 Feb.	984.3	683.7	313.7	204.6	148.3	74.7	2423.1
Increase:							
1939 to 1949	41%	37%	39%	45%	36%	52%	40%
(a) Incl. A.C.T. (4.8, 4.9, 9.1) and N.T. (2.3, 4.4, 4.7)							

OVERSEA MIGRATION-Australia

After lagging since the depression the rate of oversea migration into Australia is now increasing rapidly. Taking the balance of permanent arrivals and departures (permanency, for statistical purposes, being determined by intention to reside for a year or more in Australia or abroad) Australia had a net gain of 24,174 in migration for the war period (1940-1944), due largely to the arrival of evacuees from England and Asia. Many of these left in 1945 and 1946, also a number of war brides, and departures exceeded arrivals by 14,962 in these two years. From then on departures declined while arrivals rose from 18,217 in 1946 and 31,765 in 1947 to 65,731 in 1948, and the net gain for the latter year is estimated at 48,460 persons. Two thirds of arrivals in 1948 were British. Present Government plans provide for a total of 250,000 free and assisted migrants to arrive in the 18 months ended June, 1950, including about 140,000 displaced persons from Europe; to date about 25,000 of these migrants have arrived in Australia.

OVERSEA MIGRATION - Australia

	Five War Years 1940-1944	Post-war years			
		1945	1946	1947	1948 (c)
Permanent New Arrivals (a)	41,264	7,412	18,217	31,765	65,731
Permanent Departures (b)	17,090	10,785	29,806	19,579	17,271

(a) Persons intending residence for a year or more in Australia; includes wartime evacuees from England and Asia, Troop movements excluded. (b) Persons intending residence for a year or more abroad. (c) Subject to revision.

IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION:

Production of iron and steel has been hampered by shortages of coal during the current year and the total for the nine months ended March, 1949 (659,000 tons of pig iron and 814,000 tons of steel in this State) was about 15% below the corresponding 1947-48 level. Present output is quite insufficient for the demand from building and other industries.

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION-N.S.W & Whyalla S.A.(Thousand Tons)

	Yearly Average		Year	Nine Months ended Mar.		
	1937-1939	1940-1945		1947-48	1948	1949
Pig Iron: N.S.W.	983	1,304	926	1,030	779	659
(a) Whyalla S.A.	-	139(b)	218	206	156	136
Ingot Steel:N.S.W.	1,134	1,470	1,315	1,343	957	814

(a) mostly used in N.S.W. steel works. (b) Average for 1941-1944.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES = New South Wales

Coal Mines: During 1948 471,000 manworking days were lost through industrial disputes in New South Wales coal mines, equivalent to about 10% of possible manshifts. This is considerably more than in the two previous years but less than the average of the war and immediate pre-war period. In the 1920's and 1930's dispute losses exceeded the 1948 figure frequently although mining activity and employment was generally below the current level. The extremes of the pre-war period were a loss of 2,476,000 manworking days in the great strike of 1930 and the depression low of 36,000 in 1933. However, although the post-war dispute losses are not unusually high compared with earlier years they have to be considered in relation to the greatly increased demand for coal. In 1948 the 65 main coal mines lost an average of 23 days through industrial disputes and three days through other causes (mechanical breakdowns, funerals etc.) out of a total of 250 working days.

Other Industries: Disputes in other industries caused the loss of 304,000 man-working days in 1948, that is less than in recent years particularly if the increase in total employment is taken into consideration. The waterfront, iron and steel and transport were the main undertakings affected by disputes, and interruption of work in these basic industries affected output in others considerably.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES & EMPLOYMENT, New South Wales

Annual Averages	Industrial Disputes						Total Employment (a)		
	WORKERS INVOLVED			MAN DAYS LOST			In Coal Mines	In Fact- ories	All Wage & Salary Earners
	Coal Mines	Other Empl.	Total	Coal Mines	Other Empl.	Total			
in thousands									
1937-1939	169	24	193	466	178	644	15	220	698
1940-1944	186	101	287	473	338	811	17	284	775
1945	221	103	324	630	1249	1879	17	302	786
1946	180	83	263	299	617	916	17	319	853
1947	220	79	299	388	739	1127	17	339	924
1948	225	52	277	471	304	775	17	355	964

(a) As at end of June. Excluding rural and household domestic workers.

Disputes over wage issues in 1948 were not as frequent as in earlier years but there was a proportional increase in disputes concerning trade union rules and employment of non-union labour (shown below as 'trade unionism' and 'employment' respectively). Mining, more than other industries, was also affected by disputes over working conditions and stoppages in sympathy with other disputants.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales

Disputes Commenced in Year	Wages	Hours	Working Conditions	Employment	Trade Unionism	Sympathy	Others & Unstated	Total
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MAN WORKING DAYS LOST								
Mining Industry								
1938	69	1	15	5	1	-	9	100
1946	17	-	37	18	5	2	21	100
1947	25	1	18	9	8	13	26	100
1948	21	1	16	13	15	15	19	100
Other Industries								
1938	78	-	2	18	-	-	2	100
1946	66	6	9	12	1	4	2	100
1947	57	25	4	3	7	-	4	100
1948	34	8	1	15	37	-	5	100

Dispute losses in coal mines in February and March, 1949 totalled 32,000 and 46,000 man-working days, equivalent to about 8% and 11% of possible manshifts. The dispute at the Captain's Flat lead-zinc mine which involved about 400 men since October, 1948 was settled in April. This dispute and a number of others in engineering and metal works and wool stores caused the loss of 44,000 manworking days in March.

COAL PRODUCTION = NEW SOUTH WALES.

Coal output in the first four months of the year was the highest for that period since 1943; the average weekly output (for 14 weeks ended April, 23, 1949) was 236,000 tons, compared with 230,000 tons and 202,000 tons in the same period of 1948 and 1947. Output from open-cuts contributed about 12% of the total in 1949 and 1948.

PRODUCTION OF COAL - New South Wales - in thousand tons							
	Yearly Average	Year			Period ended		
	1937-39	1946	1947	1948	26-4-47	24-7-48	23-4-49
Underground	10,273	10,430	10,724	10,467	3,033	2,910	2,915
Open-cut	-	756	959	1,254	259	380	392
Total	10,273	11,186	11,683	11,721	3,292	3,290	3,307

According to Joint Coal Board reports total employment in N.S.W. coal mines rose from 17,189 in January, 1947 to 17,430 in January, 1948 and 18,046 in March, 1949, due mainly to the expansion of open-cuts; the number of underground workers in other mines has remained practically unchanged at 12,500.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY - Sydney and New South Wales.

Gas and electricity production in New South Wales in March quarter, 1949 was at record levels. For the quarter gas production (4,281 mill.cub.ft.) was 5% more than in 1948 and approx. 80% above pre-war, and electricity generated was 896 mill.kwh; 8% more than in 1948 and about double the pre-war figure. The seasonally adjusted index of gas and electricity consumption for the Sydney area reached a new peak of 191 in March, 1949, 6% above March, 1948 and 91% above pre-war. Growing demands have outstripped the increase in output and severe winter rationing will be necessary. A special commissioner has been appointed to ensure maximum service from available electricity resources.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY

Year ended June	New South Wales Production		Gas & Electricity Consumption, Sydney. Seasonally adjusted index
	Gas mill.cub.ft.	Electricity mill.kwh.	
Average 1937-1939	10,650	1,797	100
1946	15,302	2,832	147
1947	16,744	3,229	161
1948	18,093	3,546	174
March Quarter			
1947	3,562	778	164 (March)
1948	4,042	829	180 (March)
1949	4,281	896	191 (March)

NEW SOUTHWALES RAILWAYS.

Railway traffic is being maintained at a high level. For the nine months ended March, 1949 the number of passenger journeys was 196.2 mill. and the goods tonnage carried (excluding livestock) 13 mill. tons, both about equal to the 1947-48 level. The rise in fares and freight rates, from 13th August, 1947, increased gross earnings for the nine months period from £22.95 mill. in 1946-47 to £29.61 mill. in 1948-49, but working expenses mounted more rapidly and the surplus on working account in 1948-49, £3.87 mill., was the lowest for that period since 1938-39. Debt charges which are to be met from this surplus and from the Government contribution of £800,000 are budgeted at £6.96 mill. for the year 1948-49.

Comparing the nine months ended March, 1949 with 1939: passenger traffic increased by 39% and goods traffic by 20%; gross earnings rose by 108% and working expenses by 146%, leaving a 3.5% increase in the surplus on working account.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

Year	Nine Months ended March					Month of March	
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	(Net (a))	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock.)
1939	Millions	mill.tons.	£.mill.	£.mill.	£.mill.	Millions	Million Tons
1939	141.2	10.84	14.22	10.48	3.74	14.6	1.46
1947	194.3	12.46	22.95	18.59	4.36	23.2	1.33
1948	196.6	12.99	27.19	22.22	4.97	23.4	1.48
1949	196.2	12.99	29.61	25.73	3.87	21.9	1.51

(a) Excess of gross earnings over working expenses; excluding Government contribution of £800,000 for developmental lines.

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - Sydney & Newcastle

Following the increase in fares for the Government transport services as from the end of November, 1948 deficiency on working account for the five months ended November, amounting to £221,000, was converted to a surplus of £250,000 for the nine months ended March, 1949; the best result for some years. Capital charges to be met from the working account surplus totalled £377,000 in the year 1947-48 and are budgeted at £345,000 for 1948-49. Gross earnings in the nine months period rose from £4.56 mill. in 1946-47, to £5.91 mill. in 1947-48 when the first fare increases came into force, and to £6.46 mill. in 1948-49 with four months of still higher fares.

For the nine months gross earnings of the Sydney and Newcastle services were 97% and working expenses were 124% greater than in 1938-39. The extension of bus services is shown by the increase in the proportion of bus earnings to total earnings in Sydney from 20% in 1938-39 to 26% in 1946-47 and 38% in 1948-49.

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES - Sydney & Newcastle

Nine Months ended March	Sydney			Newcastle			Net Working Surplus (a)
	Gross Earnings Trans	Buses	Total	Working Expenses	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	
£ thousand							
1939	2,429	621	3,050	2,587	219	182	500
1947	3,050	1,067	4,117	4,132	444	441	-12
1948	3,793	1,557	5,350	5,239	559	551	119
1949	3,593	2,227	5,820	5,594	636	612	250

(a) Sydney and Newcastle. Available to meet debt charges

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS:

New South Wales registrations of new cars averaged 1,748 a month in 1937-39, and after the wartime drop rose to 1,800 a month in 1948 and reached 2,423 in March, 1949. The 1,289 new commercial vehicles registered during that month also substantially exceed the 1948 and pre-war levels. These rises are due mainly to increased deliveries of British vehicles which have represented 70-80% of the total cars registered since 1948, compared with 50% in 1947 and 20% to 40% in 1936-39. British trucks were 45% of the total in March quarter, 1949 as against 18% pre-war and 24% in 1948.

The total of motor vehicles on the State register reached a new peak in March, 1949 with 230,100 cars, 6% above the pre-war record, and 141,500 commercial vehicles or about 80% above pre-war. Registrations in Australia at the end of January, 1949 totalled 630,000 cars and 437,000 commercial vehicles.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES, New South Wales(excl. Motor Cycles)

Period	New Vehicles Registered			Civilian Vehicles on Register			as at end of period
	Cars	Lorries (a)	Total	Cars	Lorries (a)	Total	
Monthly Averages							
1937-39	1,748	736	2,484	216.6	78.7	295.3	(b)
1942-45	36	192	228	185.7	86.0	271.7	(b)
1946	320	429	749	195.4	108.8	304.2	
1947	1,018	664	1,682	205.9	124.5	330.4	
1948	1,800	906	2,706	225.4	138.6	364.0	
1948 - January	871	540	1,411	206.7	125.5	332.2	
February	1,265	704	1,969	207.7	126.4	334.1	
March	1,389	745	2,143	208.9	127.4	336.3	
1949 - January	1,237	672	1,909	226.6	139.4	366.0	
February	1,702	736	2,438	228.0	140.0	368.0	
March	2,423	1,289	3,712	230.1	141.5	371.6	

(a) Includes utilities, vans and road tractors. (b) as at 31st August 1939 and 1945.

PART II: FINANCE AND TRADE

TRADING BANKS - Australia.

Trading bank deposits in Australia continue to increase rapidly under the influence of heavy export returns, capital inflow and rising price levels. Between August, 1948 and March, 1949 the increase totalled £147 million, (taking account of a statistical adjustment of £9 million made in January, 1949), compared with £77 million and £18 million in the same period of 1947-48 and 1938-39. Of the 1948-49 increase in deposits, nearly two-thirds were required by the Commonwealth Bank for deposit on Special Account, and most of the balance was added to the banks' liquid assets. Bank advances to customers, after a slow seasonal rise toward the end of 1948, were reduced by £13 million in March quarter 1949 and now amount to 43% of deposits, compared with 47% in March, 1948, apparently due to lower credit requirements by primary producers and official selective restrictions on new loans.

The wartime and post-war rise in deposits was mainly in current accounts. Interest-bearing deposits rose from about £200 million at outbreak of war to a peak of £228 million in March, 1945 but current deposits trebled during that period. By August, 1948 interest-bearing deposits had fallen back to £199 million and since then they have increased again to £214 million.

NINE TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia.

Month (Weekly Averages)	Deposits at credit of Customers	Balances due to Other Banks	Advances to Customers	Public Secur- ties	Special A/c with C'wth Bank	Treas ury Bills	Cash Items	Ratios to Deposits		
								Advan ces	Spec ial A/c	%
1939-March	322	1	284	22	-	25	34	89	-	
1946-March	636	1	209	121	249	74	42	33	39	
1947-March	656	2	268	83	276	38	39	41	42	
1947-August	629	3	308	76	240	11	41	49	38	
1948-February	687	17	337	59	269	21	43	49	39	
March	706	18	334	59	275	26	49	47	39	
August	688	36	362	60	272	12	46	53	40	
1949-January	791 (a)	28	373 (a)	61	321	32	54	46	41	
February	813 (a)	32	363 (a)	62	344	32	51	45	42	
March	826 (a)	31	360 (a)	65	365	28	48	43	44	

(a) Following a technical adjustment in bank returns, deposits and advances were reduced by £9 million as from January, 1949.

New South Wales: Trading bank deposits in this State show a trend similar to that of the Commonwealth. After moderate increases from £223 million in March quarter, 1945 to £262 million in March 1948, they expanded by £42 million to £304 million in March 1949. However, advances lagged behind the growth in other States and fluctuated seasonally about practically the same level as in 1947-48.

NINE TRADING BANKS-DEPOSITS & ADVANCES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

	March Quarter		Month of March			
	1939	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
£ million						
Deposits	116	223	239	247	262	304
Advances	118	81	85	108	137	139

The above tables refer to the nine principal trading banks, (two of which are in process of amalgamation). Apart from those and three foreign banking companies, the Commonwealth Bank and Rural Bank also transact a considerable volume of trading bank business in this State. In March 1949 customer deposits with the Commonwealth Bank's trading departments (General Banking, Rural Credits, Mortgage Bank and Industrial Finance) in New South Wales totalled £38 million and with the General Banking Department of the Rural Bank of New South Wales £14 million, and advances £26 million and £28 million respectively. These two institutions held 15% of deposits and granted 27% of advances in the 14 banks in New South Wales. (The Commonwealth Bank figures quoted exclude the Central Banking Division which holds Special Accounts and other deposits from trading banks).

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS:

New deposits and drawings on savings accounts in this State have been high in recent months, and the total on deposit has increased gradually; a net rise of £2.36 million in March quarter, 1949 brought total balances to the new peak of £240.28 million. The increase of £3.33 million during the nine months ended March, 1949 compares with a rise of £1.34 million in the same period of 1947-48. Savings bank balances increased from £87.5 million in June, 1939 to £236.2 million in June, 1946, and after a slight decline to £231.4 million in 1946-47 the upward trend was resumed. Deposits with all savings banks in Australia increased in March quarter, 1949 by £7.91 million to £696.3 million.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (£million)

Period	New South Wales				Total Deposits at end of Period.	
	Deposits lodged	Withdrawals made	Net Increase(+) or decrease (-)	Interest added	N.S.W.	Australia.
1938/39 July-June	66.6	67.2	- 0.6	1.6	87.5	245.6
1945/46 July-June	191.3	156.8	+34.5	3.6	236.3	663.6
1946/47 July-June	159.2	167.9	- 8.7	3.8	231.4	660.0
1947-48 July-June	161.0	159.2	+ 1.8	3.8	237.0	681.3
1948-49 July-March	128.2	124.9	+ 3.3	-	240.3	696.3
1948 March Quarter	37.9	36.4	+ 1.5	-	232.7	667.4
1949 March Quarter	43.0	40.6	+ 2.4	-	240.3	696.3

INTEREST RATES:

Interest rates paid and charged by Australian banks and Government instrumentalities have tended downward during and since the war. The rate on long-term Government bonds was reduced from $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ p.a. in 1939 to $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ for the war loans and $3\frac{1}{8}\%$ since the end of 1946. The average yield on bonds has fallen from 3.92% in 1939 and 3.25% in 1945 to 3.15% in March, 1949. The maximum rate paid by trading banks on fixed deposits (24 months deposit, not exceeding £10,000) has been reduced from 3% p.a. in 1939 to $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ since the end of 1945. The savings bank rate for deposits up to £500 remained unchanged at 2%, but the rate for deposits from £500 to £1,000 was reduced from $1\frac{3}{4}\%$ to 1%. The maximum rate charged by banks for overdrafts was $5\frac{3}{4}\%$ in 1939, $4\frac{3}{4}\%$ in 1946 and is now $4\frac{1}{2}\%$. The average rate charged on private first mortgages (Urban land) was 5.6% in 1939 and now stands at 4.4%, with lower rates for certain types of institutional housing loans. The discount rate for Commonwealth Treasury bills which had fallen from the depression peak of 6% to $1\frac{3}{4}\%$ in 1939, was reduced further to 1% in March, 1945 and $\frac{3}{4}\%$ in April, 1949.

INTEREST RATES, Australia

	Average for Year		March 1949
	1939	1945	
% rate per annum			
Cwth. Bonds, long-term, Yield	3.92	3.25	3.15
Banks, Fixed Deposits	2 to 3	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.77	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$
Cwth. Savings Bank	$1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2	$1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2	1 to 2
Treasury Bills, Discount	$1\frac{3}{4}$	1	1 ($\frac{3}{4}\%$ from April)
Pte. First Mortgage (Urban)	5.6	4.8	4.4
Trading Banks, Overdraft, max.	$5\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$

Interest rates in the United Kingdom have moved on similar lines. The yield on British long-term bonds ($3\frac{1}{2}\%$ War Loan) fell from 3.76% in 1939 to 2.94% in 1945 and 2.62% in February, 1949, and the Treasury bill discount rate from 1.77% (October, 1939) to 0.51% (since 1946). Interest rates in the United States have remained at the low pre-war level, with only minor fluctuations: commercial loans, New York City yielding about 2% and bond yields for 7-9 year Government issues about 2.4%.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

State revenue for the nine months ended March 1949 totalled £68.37 million and expenditure £70.14 million leaving a deficiency of £1.77 million compared with a deficiency of £2.05 million for the same period of 1947-48. Receipts from Commonwealth tax reimbursements were £13.21 million out of an estimated total of £22 million for the full year, and £11.13 million out of £18.54 million in the 1947-48 period. Receipts from State taxes and Governmental income were about £2.25 million higher in 1948-49 while departmental appropriations required £2.86 million more. Railway revenue in 1948-49 increased by £2.75 million but railway expenses rose by £3.56 million, while the rise in revenue from tram and buses and Sydney Harbour exceeded the increase in expenditure on those accounts by about £220,000.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS (£millions)

Revenue Item	Actual 9 mths ended March		Estimate Year 1948-49	Expenditure Item	Actual 9 mths ended March		Estimate Year 1948-49
	1948	1949			1948	1949	
From Commonwealth(1)	14.2	16.3	26.9	Net Debt Charges	11.0	11.7	15.6
State Taxation	6.4	7.5	9.6	Other ex " "			
Other Governmental	6.0	7.2	9.7	Governmental	22.8	25.7	36.8
Railways	27.1	29.9	38.6	Railways	22.3	25.9	33.0
Tram & Bus Services	6.0	6.3	9.0	Tram & Bus Serv.	6.1	6.2	8.8
Sydney Harbour	1.0	1.2	1.4	Sydney Harbour	10.6	0.7	0.9
TOTAL REVENUE	60.7	68.4	95.2	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	62.8	70.2	95.1

(1) Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interest, hospital benefits & controls administration.

Loan fund expenditure on works totalled £13.29 million for the nine months of 1948-49 compared with £10.81 million in the same period of 1947-48.

RETAIL TRADE (Large Sydney Stores)

The value of sales in Sydney retail stores for the three months ended February, 1949 was 15% above the same period of 1947-48 (16% for the month of February). During this period Sydney retail price indexes for both food and clothing (March quarter) advanced by about 13%. It therefore appears that the high volume of retail sales of recent years was maintained but was not increasing as in 1947-48, when advances in turnover values considerably exceeded price rises. Increases in stock values slowed down from 33% in 1947 and 21% in 1948 to 8% in February 1949.

RETAIL SALES - LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Three months moving Average ended month shown	Percentage Increase on same period of previous year			Month	Value of Stocks		
	1947	1948	1949		1947	1948	1949
January	22	17	16	January	39	24	11
February	22	19	15	February	39	24	8
September	24	16		September	29	17	
October	27	8		October	25	16	
November	24	8		November	28	14	
December	17	13		December	26	12	
Increase twelve months ended December	19	16	-	Increase twelve months ended December	33	21	-

Comparing February 1949 and 1948 principal increases in sales values occurred in men's and boy's wear (34%), girls' and children's wear (25%) and hardware (25%) while only minor rises were recorded for women's wear and boots and shoes. A recent Australia-wide survey showed that the physical stock position in retail stores continued to improve in March quarter, 1949; but in many lines traders still held only one to two-thirds of their normal pre-war stocks.

OVERSEA TRADE:

High export prices and larger shipments of wool, wheat and flour were the main factors in raising Australian exports by £125.5 million from £282 million in July-March 1947-48 to £407.5 million in the same period of 1948-49. Merchandise imports at £305.9 million were £62.7 million greater and the merchandise export surplus increased from £38.8 million to £101.6 million compared with only £8.8 million in the same period of 1938-39. The sharp rise in wool and metal prices during 1948 moved the terms of trade in Australia's favour. The export price index, based on a pre-war average of 100 and excluding gold, rose by 27% from 291 to 369 between December, 1947 and 1948 (377 in February, 1949), while the import price index (Commonwealth Bank) advanced only by 6% from 268 to 285.

OVERSEA TRADE - AUSTRALIA (£A millions - f.o.b. values)

Particulars	Nine months ended March		
	1939	1948	1949
<u>Merchandise:</u>			
Exports	95.2	282.0	407.5
Imports	86.4	243.2	305.9
Export Surplus	8.8	38.8	101.6
<u>Bullion & Specie:</u>			
Export Surplus	11.6	3.5	0.4
<u>Total:</u>	20.4	42.3	102.0

Comparing import values for the nine months periods of 1947-48 and 1948-49 considerable increases were shown for motor vehicles (£12.4 million and £24.1 million), electrical equipment (£6.8 million and £12.3 million), cotton piece goods and petrol. Shipments of wool, wheat and flour, representing about 60% of total export values for the 9 months period, were considerably above 1947-48 and 1938-39, but shipments of butter, frozen meat and skins declined.

EXPORTS OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA, Nine Months Ended March.

	Quantities(millions)			Values (£millions)			
	Unit	1939	1948	1949	1939	1948	1949
Wool: Greasy	lb.	660	593	699	31.3	85.4	142.1
Scoured etc.	lb.	55	129	115	4.2	23.2	26.4
Wheat	bushel	45	32	59	6.5	26.3	48.4
Wheaten Flour	lb.	1019	1093	1303	3.3	21.4	27.7
Butter	lb.	171	157	144	9.5	17.5	18.6
Meat-Frozen(a)	lb.	384	299	261	7.9	8.8	8.6
Tinned	lb.	11	67	74	0.4	4.2	5.8
Skins-Sheep	no.	12	10	8	2.0	6.3	5.3
Rabbit	lb.	4	9	9	0.4	3.1	2.9
Lead	ton.	0.157	0.101	0.133	3.3	9.9	18.0

(a) Beef, lamb and mutton.

The dollar trade position improved considerably in the current period in spite of reduced wool exports to America. Exports to the United States and Canada were £29.5 mill. in 1947-48 and £32.2 mill. in 1948-49, while imports were reduced from £69.1 mill. to £38.4 mill. Exports to the United Kingdom rose by £59.4 mill. to £170.6 mill. and imports from the United Kingdom increased from one third to one half of total imports. Increased exports, chiefly of wool, were made to France, Italy and the Soviet Union.

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

Prices at the Sydney Stock Exchange declined substantially in February and early March, receding in many cases to the level of 1946, before wartime restrictions were lifted. Later in April the market became firmer and prices were stable at the new level. The index for 34 active shares in April was 255.8, -the lowest since December, 1946 and 11% below the peak reached in January, 1948. All the main share groups, excepting insurance, were affected by the recent decline.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. banks). Par value=100

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

Month	Manufact'g & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939 - August	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942 - March	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1946 - December	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947 - April	325.4	313.6	194.7	168.3	385.5	254.9	269.9
1948 - January	361.4	315.5	184.7	191.7	407.8	271.5	283.7
April	350.9	308.6	178.0	176.1	399.7	261.8	272.3
1949 - January	354.8	295.7	172.5	182.2	438.5	259.4	269.7
March	345.1	288.3	165.2	180.6	464.1	254.6	262.2
April	338.8	286.9	160.7	171.0	466.5	250.7	255.8

Note: Regulations restricting trading and price movements in company shares imposed in February, 1942, with subsequent amendments, were rescinded in January, 1947.

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS

Commonwealth revenue for the ten months ended April was £407.3 mill. in 1949, about £52 mill. more than in 1948, due to increased receipts from taxes (£31m.), transfer of surplus trust funds to revenue for a war gratuity reserve, and greater collection of charges on primary produce earmarked for assistance to these industries. Revenue from customs, excise, sales tax and payroll tax is at or above the budget rate. Revenue from income tax and social service contributions for the ten months totalled £172.5 mill., £19 mill., more than in the 1947-48 period; last year £80 mill. was collected from this source in May and June. Expenditure, other than defence and Post-War, increased from £207 mill. in the 1947-48 to £261 mill. in the 1948-49 period, social services requiring an additional £9 mill. and departmental and other £18 mill. more. A total of £137.2 mill. for defence and post-war (£129.7 mill. in 1948-49) was made up as follows: £146.5 mill. from revenue plus £9 mill. from loan funds less a transfer of £18.3 mill. from war trust funds arising from recoupments, disposals etc.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS (£millions)

Item	Revenue			Expenditure		
	Actual 10 months ended April		Estimate Year	Actual 10 months ended April		Estimate Year
	1948	1949	1948-49	1948	1949	1948-49
Customs & Excise	95.9	104.0	115.0	Social Services	56.9	66.0
Sales Tax	28.4	31.9	38.0	Paid to States:		
Income Tax & S.S.C	153.2	172.5	246.0	Tax Reimbursement	32.6	39.2
Payroll Tax	13.5	16.2	18.0	Other (States)	17.2	19.8
Other taxes	10.6	10.0	14.0	Post Office	23.7	29.4
Total Taxation	301.6	334.6	431.0	Self-Balancing(a)	7.9	19.0
Post Office	26.0	27.2	32.8	Departmental & Other	68.8	87.4
Self-balancing(a)	7.9	19.0	16.7	Total of above	207.1	260.8
Other	9.6	26.5	29.0	Defence & Post-War(b)	129.7	137.2
TOTAL REVENUE	345.1	407.3	509.5	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	336.8	398.0
						527.2

- (a) Charges on flour, wheat and wool, earmarked for assistance to these industries.
- (b) Excludes payments from revenue to credit of loan funds: £8.3 mill. in 1947-48 and £9 mill. in 1948-49; in the latter period £18.3 m. were transferred from Trust Accounts to credit Defence & Post War. 1948-49 budget provides for defence & post war exp. of £177.5 m. from revenue and £17.7m. from loan funds.

Revenue surplus and loan monies have been used to reduce Treasury bill circulation in Australia from £400 mill. in February, 1946 and £228 mill. in April 1948 to £173 mill. in April, 1949.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS = New South Wales.

The number of real estate transfers registered during the first four months of 1949 (27,382) was well above the 1948 figure (24,399), and the value of transfers for the period increased from £19.60 mill. to £20.66 mill. A small decrease from March to April, 1949 was due to the Easter holidays (in March 1948). Real estate sales have increased in number since the lifting of restrictions on the sale of vacant urban land, and the lower average value per transaction implies an increase in the turnover of land rather than of dwellings. The value of new mortgages registered for the four months was about £11 mill. in 1948 and 1949.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Year	Sales		Mortgages		Monthly Average	Sales		Mortgages	
	Transact- ions	Consid- eration	Consid- eration	No.		Transact- ions	Consid- eration	Consid- eration	Consid- eration
Av. 1936-38	No.	£mill.	£mill.	1948 Mar.Qr.		No.	£mill.	£mill.	£mill.
1946	44,375	36.11	23.76		6,023	4.79			2.83
1947	81,196	50.68	21.37	April	6,331	5.24			2.55
1948	80,592	57.22	25.99	1949 Mar.Qr.	6,960	5.16			2.84
	80,597	59.46	31.46	April	6,502	5.19			2.53

PART III - RURAL INDUSTRIES.

THE SEASON:

Copious rains over the whole State in March quarter were followed by fine, dry and cold weather in April. Rainfall and temperature were generally well below normal; only some North-Western districts received heavy rains. Pastures remain in good condition though more rain is needed in the South. Weather in wheat areas was favourable for soil preparation, and sowing is in progress.

RAINFALL INDEX - NEW SOUTH WALES

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall=100 for each month & Year

	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Coastal Dairying Districts			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total
1946-Year	77	68	101	87	83	62	69	102	88	84	89	80	85
1947-Year	126	131	119	145	127	118	130	124	125	118	109	96	113
1948-Year	102	103	99	92	101	98	100	96	97	106	95	96	102
1949-Jan.	95	83	55	41	73	111	78	52	66	83	147	126	105
Feb.	224	174	114	181	170	225	167	112	140	115	222	138	145
Mar.	99	147	227	388	186	64	152	248	200	161	165	145	160
April	91	82	51	85	75	118	72	56	68	79	79	37	74

N Northern; C.Central; S.Southern; W.Western

DAIRYING:

Heavy rains in dairying districts in March stimulated pasture growth, though floodings in the northern region delayed preparation for winter crops and caused some damage. Factory butter output in March, 9 mill.lbs, was the best for that month since 1942 but the total for the first nine months of the current season, 59.75 mill.lbs, was 2,33 mill.lbs less than last year. Butter production has been influenced by the general decline in dairy activity and also by the increased proportion of wholemilk used as fresh milk or for condensory products. Milk production in New South Wales for the eight months ended February was 197 mill.gallons compared with 203 mill.gall. in 1947-48 and 166 mill.gall. in 1946-47. Milk production in other States improved during the current season and the Australian total for the eight months, 868 mill.gallons, was higher than in the previous two years.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, New South Wales.
(in million lbs.)

P e r i o d	Average 3 years		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	1937-38 to	1943-44 to			
	1939-40	1945-46			
July to March	89.72	65.08	43.36	62.08	59.75
April to June	24.21	12.88	17.02	13.99	
Y e a r	113.93	77.96	60.38	76.07	

Milk supplies to the Milk Board have been maintained at a high level and were 13.75 mill.gall. for the twelve weeks ended March 31, 1949, compared with 13.24 mill.gall and 12.42 mill.gall. for the same periods of 1948 and 1946. Quantities of whole milk and sweet cream acquired by the Board for the Sydney Area have increased from 27.41 mill.gall. in 1938-39 to 48.49 mill.gall. in 1948 and for other areas from 1.85 mill.gall. (for Newcastle) to 7.15 mill.gall. (for Newcastle, Wollongong, Erina and Blue Mountains). Taking account of the decline in milk sales by dairymen-vendors (estimated at 4.8 mill.gallons-from 10.5 mill.gall. in 1938-39 to 5.7 mill.gall. in 1947-48) and the growth of population it appears that milk consumption per head in these areas has increased by approx. 25% during the past ten years. The Commonwealth Statistician's estimate of milk consumption, excluding butter, shows a rise from 39.3 lb a year per head during three pre-war years to 49 lbs. in 1947-48 for the Commonwealth.

MILK SUPPLIES TO MILK BOARD, New South Wales(million gallons)

Whole Milk and Milk Equivalent of Sweet Cream.	Year ended				Twelve Weeks ended		
	June 1939	December 1946	1947	1948	April 3 1947	April 2 1948	March 31 1949
Sydney	27.41	47.46	48.34	48.49	11.42	11.50	11.89
Other Areas (a)	1.85	5.49	6.17	7.15	1.48	1.74	1.86
T o t a l	29.26	52.95	54.51	55.64	12.90	13.24	13.75

(a) Newcastle from inception; Wollongong and Erina from January, 1947 and Blue Mountains from November, 1947 onward.

W O O L:

Deliveries of wool in to New South Wales stores for the nine months ended March, 1949 totalled 1.07 mill.bales; 133,000 bales more than for the same period of 1947-48 and 3,000 bales more than for the whole 1947-48 season. In previous years about 90% of the total was received during the first nine months of the season and on that basis wool production in the current season would show a partial recovery from the drop (due to drought and other factors) of the four previous seasons. Sales were suspended in March (until 11th April) and 339,000 bales, that is over a third of wool received, remained unsold in store at the end of the month.

RECEIVALS, DISPOSALS AND STOCKS OF WOOL.

(N.S.W. Stores excl. Albury - Thousand Bales)

	1948-49			1947-48
	Sydney	Newcastle & Goulburn	Total N.S.W.	Total N.S.W.
Carry-over from June	14	1	15	41
Receipts, July to March	863	208	1071	938
Total	877	209	1086	979
Disposals, July to March	588	159	747	782
Balance in Store at end of March	289	50	339	197

Sydney sales were resumed in April to good competition by Australian and oversea buyers. Full clearances were made but prices remained at the lower levels established in Brisbane in the previous week; that is for first quality wool 5 to 10 per cent, and for medium and inferior types 10 to 25% below the record prices reached in February. The average price for April was 44d per lb, greasy, 19 per cent below the February peak though still 6d (16%) above the average for the 1947-48 season.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL - New South Wales - Pence per lb.

Year Ended June						
1928	1931	1939	1941 & 1942	1943 to 1946	1947	1948
19.5	8.7	10.3	13.1(a)	15.1 (a)	23.6	37.9
Year 1948-49 (b)						
June	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.& Jan.	Feb.& Mar.	April
47.5	47.0	43.5	48.5	53.0	54.5	44.0

(a) On basis of British Government contract. (b) Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of that month.

Wool exports from Australia for the seven months ended March, 1949 (seven months of current auction sales) were 753 mill.lbs. greasy (including scoured, tops, noils etc. converted to greasy bases), valued at £138 mill., compared with 705 mill.lbs (£95 mill.) and 581 mill.lbs (£33 mill.) in the same periods of 1947-48 and 1937-38. Comparing 1948-49 with 1947-48, shipments to France, Italy, Poland and Russia were greatly increased while shipments to the United Kingdom (271 mill.lbs) were slightly smaller and those to the United States fell from 103 mill.lbs to 50 mill.lbs. In the 1948-49 period the United Kingdom took about 35% of the total value (45% in 1937-38), Belgium and France together 25%, Italy 12%, the United States 9%, Russia 6% and Poland 2%. Shipments to Germany and Japan were only a fraction of pre-war. Processed wool comprised 16% of the total value of the wool exported compared with 10% in 1937-38 period. Sales at Australian auctions (to Australian and oversea buyers) for the 1948-49 period totalled about 718 mill.lbs, greasy equivalent, valued at £144 mill. from the current clip and also about 122 mill.lbs greasy valued at £14 mill. from J.O. stocks.

WOOL EXPORTS - AUSTRALIA = Seven Months ended March.

Destination	Quantity (as in Grease)			Value		
	1938	1948	1949	1938	1948	1949
million lbs.						
United Kingdom(a)	252	279	271	14.88	35.04	47.63
France	103	121	155	5.32	13.79	26.06
Belgium	66	87	62	3.31	10.31	8.86
Italy	23	29	84	1.38	4.56	16.00
United States	3	103	50	0.21	18.41	12.10
Soviet Russia	-	1	30	-	0.27	8.45
Other Countries	134	85	101	8.02	12.85	19.12
Total	581	705	753	33.12	95.23	138.22

(a) Includes shipments of 7.0 stock wool for sale in United Kingdom, £2.03 mill. and £3.28 mill. in the 1947-48 and 1948-49 periods.